result thereof and the number of persons who died and those seriously injured due to fire;

(c) whether there are any norms fixed for the payment of compensation in such cases; and

(d) if so, the deails thereof, separately indicating the compensation payable for the loss of each jhuggi, for the dead and the seriously injured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cause of the fire has not as yet been determined. However, the survey conducted indicates that 1420 jhuggis were gutted in fire in which 11 persons died and one person was seriously injured.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The ex-gratia payment admissible in such cases is indicated as under:

Jhuggies gutted:	Rs. 1,0007-
Death:	Rs. 50,000/- in case of a major.
Death:	Rs. 25,000/- in case of a minor.
Seriously injured:	Rs. 20,000/-.

Curbing flow of development funds to militants

4230. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Study Group on North-east has been set up to curb flow of development funds to militants operating in the region, and suggesting a system of effective governance;

(b) if so, what are its main findings, observation and suggestions;

(c) whether the study reveals payment of lakhs of rupees of development funds per month to MLAs in politically unstables States; and

(d) Government's response and reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) The terms of reference of the North East Study Group are:

(j) To develop a long range vision for the North East as a region in the context of liberalization, bio-technology and the information revolution and their impact so as to integrate the North East culturally, economically and politically with the rest of the country;

(ii) On the basis of the vision, to develop a pro-active strategy for the North East and to suggest measures, in the short term, for regressing militancy and establishing effective governance system s, ncbdhg, *inter-alia;*

(a) to make recommendations on the specific steps necessary to improve the law and order situation in the area;

(b) to recommend the steps necessary to curb the flow of development funds to Militant Groups through extortion etc.; and

(c) to recommend a system for effective governance in the North Eastern Region based on strengths of the Region and the people.

The group has submitted first set of recommendations. These inter-alia include, measures to improve governance, accelerate development and cultural integration of North East with the rest of the country. It is also the perception of the group that some of the development funds are being siphoned off.

The group is in the process of discussing these recommendations with the concerned North Eastern States and already a meeting has taken place with the Govt, of Assam.

US Human Rights Commission's comment on minorities of Gujarat

4231. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Human Rights Commission in its Report for 2002 has commented sharply on the persecution of minorities in Gujarat;

(b) whether these comments include the recent move of the Gujarat Government for a door-to-door survey of the Christians living in the State; and

(c) whether India has made its position clear before the international community through NHRC?